

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Vertner L. Taylor, *Commissioner*

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- PRESS RELEASE -

Beckstrom named warden for new Elliott County prison

Gary M. Beckstrom, a 26-year veteran of Corrections, has been named warden of the new Elliott County prison that's slated to open next fall. He will assume his new position November 1.

For the past 11 years, Beckstrom has served as deputy warden of security at the Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex in West Liberty.

Beckstrom began his career in 1977 as a Correctional Officer at the Kentucky State Reformatory. He worked there for eight years in a variety of positions including Correctional Lieutenant and Classification and Treatment Officer. In 1985 he transferred to Northpoint Training Center and was promoted to Unit Administrator II and subsequently promoted to Correctional Senior Captain in 1989.

Throughout his career, Beckstrom has been a model of decorum as evidenced by numerous awards including honors for Outstanding Merit, Distinguished Service (DSA), and Continuing Excellence (ACE) and Supervisor of the Month.

"We're fortunate to have someone of Gary Beckstrom's caliber to bring into this very important position," said DOC Commissioner Vertner L. Taylor. "This new facility in Elliott County will be a state-of-the-art prison that will initially house nearly 1,000 felons and eventually expand to house 2,000 inmates. We needed an individual with his type of institutional experience and ability to provide the overall leadership and direction for the staff as well as command the respect of the incarcerated population."

Beckstrom earned a bachelor's degree, cum laude, from Spaulding University with a major in sociology and a minor in psychology and an associate degree in sociology from Jefferson Community College.

The Department of Corrections has utilized Beckstrom's experience and expertise in several major projects for the department. He was appointed interim warden upon the retirement of the EKCC warden in 1997 and he served in that capacity for three months. For his leadership during this time, he received a special recognition award from the Commissioner.

"Beckstrom is one of the most honest, able, and dedicated employees with whom I have had the pleasure to work during my years in Corrections," said George Million, Acting Deputy Commissioner of Adult Institutions. "His leadership abilities will prove to be a great asset to our new institution in Elliott County and to the Department as a whole."